



NOVEMBER 2015

# BOBCAT NEWS

BUCKLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

With the leaves changing colors and the temperature dropping steadily, it is obvious that winter is right around the corner. Since the start of the school year, we have been very busy. We have been conducting benchmark assessments that will provide valuable information and data on how best to provide instruction to our students, busy with the many **PTA** events here at school including the back to school cook out and recently the book bingo night and a movie! These are just a few of our highlights so far!

I would like to bring to your attention that we completed our School Improvement Plan. I shared it with our school community a few weeks ago. This was a true Buckley School effort. Please know that our School Leadership Team worked on it for several months as well as the entire staff. Please know that I will provide frequent updates on our progress. Moreover, please note that it is posted it on our school website and in our breezeway of our main entrance.

Attached to this newsletter is our Save the Date flyer for our Barnes and Noble Night. Please note the date of December 8th. This is a wonderful night of books! Please join us for this evening.

In addition to the above, you will be receiving information regarding the parent/teacher conferences that will take place December 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Please note that we had signups for days and times during the September Open House. **We recently sent notices to families who had not signed up.** I anticipate the confirmation letters to be sent to families during the week of November 16th.

Please note that I am planning to have a common core/curriculum evening as I did last school year. The purpose of this is to provide valuable information regarding the common core and expectations as well as to provide information about our curriculum. I anticipate this evening taking place in the early winter. Please look for information that I will send home in the near future

For your convenience, I have outlined our November and December activities that will take place here at Buckley.

#### November Calendar

- November 3                      **No School**-Professional Development for Staff
- November 11                    No School-Veterans Day
- November 12                   PTA Meeting @ 6:30
- November 19                   Townwide PTA meeting at Buckley School!
- November 25                   1:17 dismissal
- November 26, 27               No School-Thanksgiving recess
- November 30-Dec.4           Book Fair

#### December Calendar

- December 1 -3                Parent Teacher Conferences and 1:17 dismissal
- December 8                   Barnes and Noble Night
- December 9                   1:17 dismissal-Teacher Professional Learning
- December 15                  Winter Concert at 2:00
- December 18                  Holiday Store at school!

Please take a look at our flyer for our Barnes and Noble Bookfair! I wish you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving Break. I hope you spend quality time with your family and friends!

Fondly,

Matthew Daly

## KINDERGARTEN

It's hard to believe that it's November already! October was a busy month for us. We had fun learning about fire safety and pumpkins. We enjoyed our day at Foster Farm. It was so exciting to ride on the school bus and to bring a pumpkin back to school! Thank you so much Buckley PTA for covering the cost of the bus for us!

We are practicing letter identification and learning how to listen for the sounds in words. We are also listening for rhyming words. In math, we finished up our unit on numbers 0-5 and we are beginning to compare them by using the words greater than, less than, and equal to. In November, we will begin to explore numbers 6-10.

Remember to keep reading at home and encouraging your child to write his/her name the kindergarten way. We look forward to another busy month in November. We will be learning about families and celebrating our differences and similarities. We will also continue building our reading stamina in Readers Workshop and celebrating our successes. Let's have a great month!

Thank you! — Mrs. Hoffman, Ms. Lavalley, and Ms. Adams

## FIRST GRADE

## Fantastic First Grade

October was an amazing month! We learned about fire safety in the stories we read, the conversations we had, and our visit from the local firefighters. The children have been growing in their ability to recognize and use a growing number of sight words in both their reading and writing! They have been learning about the relationship between addition and subtraction.

In November we look forward to learning about voting, Veteran's Day, and the friendship between the Pilgrims and Native Americans as they celebrated the first Thanksgiving.

Thank you! - Mrs. Bourcier & Ms. Seaha; Miss Nelson & Miss Salce

## SECOND GRADE

This month, the second graders have begun reading non-fiction texts. We will be focusing on asking questions before, during and after reading. We will also discuss the main idea and details of non-fiction texts.

In writer's workshop, the students have been working diligently to add elaboration and details into their small moment stories! This month, the students will be learning to expand upon their main events and writing a structured ending.

In math, we have been working on addition and subtraction strategies with numbers under 20. This month we will focus on solving addition and subtraction word problems.

We are so proud of the progress our students have been making thus far and look forward to a wonderful November!

Fondly - Mrs. Strickland, Mrs. Marocchini and Mr. Murphy

## THIRD GRADE

We would like to start off by thanking our STEM specialist, Ms. Curtin for planning and setting up a wonderful trip for us to the Connecticut Science Center. A big thank you also goes out to all the parents who came and chaperoned.

November is a short but very busy month for third grade. As part of Manchester's initiative to improve instruction, teachers are working very closely with our Literacy Coach and with our Lit Life consultants to write comprehensive and detailed lesson plans modelled after Lucy Calkins. Our lesson plans are collaboratively produced and are uploaded to Google docs every night. It is helping us as professionals to really fine tune our craft. Students are given a very focused short mini lesson and then they get to pick any book they would like to apply the strategy taught. In November we will be working on nonfiction texts, main idea, details, compare and contrast, and nonfiction text features. Students are independently reading for 30 minutes, with the goal for third grade is an hour.

In writing, we are diving into Lucy Calkin's Expository writing which fits perfectly with the reader's workshop. Students are given a laser focused short mini lesson followed by the opportunity to write for an extended period of time.

In Math we are launching Unit Two, which will take us through February. We will be totally immersed in multiplication and division. Students will be using, number lines, bar diagrams, arrays, groups, place value, repeated addition and traditional algorithms to explore the relationships between multiplication and division.

Thank you! — Ms. Brown & Mr. Sweetland

## FOURTH GRADE

For the first two weeks of November we will be wrapping up our studies of characters, place value, and computation. Halfway through this month fourth graders begin new units in both Math and ELA (English/Language Arts). Our new reading unit is called "Reading the Weather, Reading the World" and it is a study of nonfiction or informational text. This unit focuses on reading nonfiction text with a concentration on extreme weather. Students start by choosing easier text and topics of their choice. As the unit continues, they will tackle more difficult text. They will become experts in their topic and teach others what they learned. Later in the unit, the students will engage in research projects about a nonfiction topic.

In Math our next unit is about solving word problems. This unit will take us all the way to winter break. The students will use all four operations. They have to interpret multiplication equations as comparisons, multiply or divide to solve word problems which involve multiplicative comparisons, use equations with a symbol for the unknown number, solve multistep word problems including problems in which remainders must be interpreted, assess the reasonableness of answers, gain familiarity with factors and multiples, determine whether a number is prime or composite, and generate and analyze patterns that follow a given rule. You may be thinking that is a lot to get through and you are right! The new curriculum is closely aligned to the Common Core standards. We are moving at a steady pace. Mastery of the basic math facts is essential! Good thing we spent so much time on computation in the first two months of school!

The children are doing a fine job completing homework and filling in the nightly reading log. We appreciate the support you provide. We look forward to meeting with you at parent conferences. As always, please be in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you! — Mrs. Godbout & Mrs. Hoke

## FIFTH GRADE

Our fifth graders are keeping busy this year! Thank you for continuing to support your child's learning by providing a time and place for daily reading.

In math, we have fully established our routines for the workshop model and are engaged daily in interactive math stations. We have been focusing on multiplication and division and are now moving into place value. In addition, our Math Olympiads team is working hard on their problem solving strategies and are looking forward to their first competition.

In social studies we will be studying how the European nations came to settle in North America and their relationships with the Native Americans. We will learn about the settlements of Jamestown, Plymouth, the Spanish Colonies, the French and the Dutch and the New England Colonies.

As you know, the amount of homework your child receives increases as they get older. The town of Manchester recommends that we give 50 minutes of homework plus 20 minutes of additional independent reading. Please provide time, space, and structure for your child to complete his or her homework. It is a reinforcement of skills we are trying to master in the classroom. The completion of this work on a consistent basis is an important component of our 5th grade program. Thank you so much for your support.

Thank you! – Mrs. Brahm, Mrs. Adinolfi, & Mrs. Jodoin

## COACHES' CORNER

This year in Manchester, all elementary schools are moving towards a Reading Workshop model of Reading instruction. Through the Workshop model, students spend an extended amount of time reading on a daily basis and are provided opportunities to talk about what they are reading. Reading Workshop helps to foster a love of reading and gives students opportunities to practice reading strategies independently while reading “just right” books for extended periods of time. The Workshop model creates a structure which allows teachers to focus on the strengths and needs of each individual student.

The Components of the Reading Workshop are Mini-Lesson, Reading Time, & Share. The Workshop begins with a focused Mini-Lesson (10-15 minutes). In the Mini-Lesson, the teacher models the use of a reading strategy or behavior and guides the students in practicing that strategy. The majority of the Workshop time each day is focused on actual reading (30-60 minutes). During this time, students engage in independent and partner reading where they practice the skills and strategies taught in the mini-lessons. During this time, teachers pull guided reading or strategy groups and/or confer with individual students about their reading. Students may also spend time meeting in Book Clubs during this Reading Time. The Workshop ends each day with a final Teaching Share (5 minutes). During the Share, teachers and students recap their learning from that day.

Thank you! – Mrs. O'Malley

Over the past month and a half, the fourth graders have been preparing for the CT Physical Fitness Assessment. The results are not final yet. The fitness testing window runs from mid-September to middle of November. Scores will be available after November 21. The students are assessed on curl-ups, pushups, the sit n reach and the pacer.

Students in the other grades have been participating in celebration games, pathways, and activities that focus on the development of upper body strength. -Mr. Kolze & Mrs. Falkowski

Greetings from the music room!

It has been getting cooler as the year progresses, but we are staying active with dances and games! Kindergartners are working with rhymes

while they try to do all the motions from "My Aunt Came Back" - could you tap your foot, wave your hand, use pretend scissors, hula-hoop, and rock in a pretend rocking chair all at the same time? They have also made a new friend - Aiken Drum! He lives on the moon and is made up of crazy food items. First grade voted on their favorite version of "Epo I Tai Tai E" - most children



preferred the New Zealand version to the Hawaii version. Second grade has started a stick passing game called "Obwisana". Can you keep the beat if they sing it to you? Third grade has begun a challenge called the Mad Music Minute. They have to identify 20 music notes in one minute - and they are getting better with each try! Fourth grade had their own passing game with a complicated passing pattern named "Al Citron" - we will hopefully learn the hard part in the upcoming week! Fifth grade has been running a game named "Hickety Pickety" on their own, taking turns as needed. It is great to watch them play! Keep singing, everybody! - Mrs. Siobhan Leonard

Our year has been very busy so far! Congratulations to the following students who have artwork hanging at the Superintendent's office. The artwork hanging is their Under the Sea, Fabulous Fish, and Fish in the Style of Georges Seurat. These were created last spring in the Art Room.

Grade 2	Parker, Tessa, Taylor, Kylee, Juda, Ava, and Olivia R.
Grade 3	Alexa, Adrian, Mobeen, and Spencer
Grade 5	Billy, Madison, Shubhan, Jeiraliz, Tommy, and Skyler

Also, on another bulletin board at the Board of Education building Olivia R. and Caden J. have a Cool Cat and an Owl Painting hanging. I am always so proud to showcase the work of our Buckley students. Thank you for being Hard Working Artists during your art time!

Any student interested in participating in the PTA sponsored "Let Your Imagination Fly" contest can see Mrs. Maloney for a permission slip and details. The completed work will be due in December. Please ask your children about what they are learning in Art. If you have further questions, feel free to contact me!



## SCHOOL NURSE

Hello Bobcat Families,

Can you believe flu season is coming upon us? I would like to encourage you to make an appointment for your child(ren) to receive their flu shot for this year with their doctor. Many CVS and Walgreens are also offering the flu shot as well. If you have any questions regarding the flu shot or flu clinics, feel free to call me at 860-647-3303.

Can I ask for your help? The school nurse's office is in need of boys/girls pants. If you have any boys/girls pants that no longer fit your child ranging in sizes 4-10, please send them in with your child to drop off at the nurse's office.

Stay well!

Carolyn Hussey, RN  
Buckley School Nurse

## MEDIA CENTER

November is **Family Stories Month** and what better way to get ready for Thanksgiving than by sharing some books about families and starting to create a scrapbook of your own family. There are several easy ways to start saving your family stories and each one can be introduced with a library book. A good way to introduce the topic is with Rona Downey's **Love is a Family** which shows that although a family is made of many different people, the main ingredient is love. Dig out your family albums, wedding pictures and baby books and explain the photos. Record family members sharing their favorite pictures and what memories they bring back. Try to remember funny tales such as those found in Cynthia Rylant's **The Day The Relatives Came** or Ann Martin's **Ten Kids, No Pets**. Create a "day on the life of" journal. Ask each family member to talk about their daily routine, from breakfast burritos to bedtime books. Read what it's like when mom decides she needs **Five Minutes Peace** by Jill Murphy. Set a time and go through boxes in the attic, basement, closet, or shed. Don't clean, just explore. Discover the memories these treasures hold just as Michael did in Sharon Mathias' **The Hundred Penny Box**. After reading **Once There Were Giants** by Martin Waddell take a look at some old family videos and take notes on family members' thoughts. Susan Roth's **Patchwork Tales** and Valerie Flournoy's **The Patchwork Quilt** remind us of the importance of interviewing grandparents. Ask them what it was like when they were young. What was life like without a television, a computer or a smart phone? And don't forget to share special memories like Jeradine Nolen's **In My Mama's Kitchen** or Emily Arnold McCully's **New Baby**. When you put all of these stories together you will have a family treasury full of love and laughter.

You might also like to check out the Library's K-8 Resource page which can be found at

<http://mhsweb.ci.manchester.ct.us/Library/k8resources.htm> - your children can access **Fast Math**, **TumbleBooks**, **Pebble Go!** and **Type to Learn** from this website as well as other educational and entertaining links.

Noreen Lake & Donna Samborski

## FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

The Buckley Family Resource Center is excited to be offering Lunch Bunch groups again this year!

I am happy to welcome back some of my friends from last year as well as all the new faces I will be getting to know throughout the year. For the families not familiar with this program, Lunch Bunch focuses on making reading fun by getting the family involved in this process. Lunch Bunch invites parents, guardians and adult family members into the school to eat with their student and participate in an age appropriate reading and activities. The groups are organized by grade to ensure the student is comfortable with the reading content and engaged in the activities. Our first Lunch Bunch began October 19, 2015, and will continue on Mondays and Tuesdays for the rest of the year. If you are interesting in participating in Lunch Bunch you can contact me, Sean Webster-FRC Coordinator, at 860-645-4824 or at [sw Webster@mpspride.org](mailto:sw Webster@mpspride.org) for more information.






Produce of the Month



Spaghetti Squash

# November 2015 Elementary



Alternates	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Ham & Cheese Sandwich Yogurt/Bagel Plate Chef Salad Hummus Plate	2 Cheese Quesadilla Salsa & Sour Cream Steamed Green Beans Choice of Fruit	3 No School 	4 Pasta & Meatballs Spinach Salad Choice of Fruit	5 Chicken Nuggets Cheesy Rice & Broccoli Steamed Carrots Choice of Fruit	6 Nacho Supreme Baked Tortilla Chips Taco Meat, Mexican Black Beans Lettuce, Tomato, Salsa & Sour Cream Cheese Sauce Choice of Fruit
Turkey Sandwich Yogurt/Bagel Plate Chef Salad Hummus Plate	9 French Toast Sticks Potato Puffs Sausage Links Choice of Fruit	10 Boneless Breaded Chicken Drumsticks Roasted Parmesan Green Beans Cheddar Goldfish Choice of Fruit	11 No School 	12 Breaded Chicken Bites Brown Rice Steamed Carrots Choice of Fruit	13 Pizza Cheese or Veggie Crispy Roasted Chickpeas Choice of Fruit
Tuna Sandwich Yogurt/Bagel Plate Chef Salad Hummus Plate	16 Toasted Cheese Sandwich Tomato Soup Sweet Potato Fries Choice of Fruit	17 Chicken Patty on Whole Wheat Roll Steamed Green Beans Choice of Fruit	18 Soft Shell Taco Lettuce & Tomato Salsa & Sour Cream Shredded Cheese Refried Beans Choice of Fruit	19 Popcorn Chicken Mashed Potato with Gravy Choice of Fruit	20 Soft Bread Sticks Meat Sauce Caesar Salad Choice of Fruit
Ham & Cheese Sandwich Yogurt/Bagel Plate Chef Salad Hummus Plate	23 Chicken Nuggets Seasoned Noodles Steamed Carrots Choice of Fruit	24 Beefburger, Cheeseburger or Veggie Burger on a Whole Wheat Roll Lettuce & Tomato Corn Choice of Fruit	25 Pasta & Meatballs Roasted Zucchini Choice of Fruit	26	27 
Turkey Sandwich Yogurt/Bagel Plate Chef Salad Hummus Plate	30 French Toast Sticks Potato Puffs Sausage Links Choice of Fruit		Milk is available with all lunches Daily Milk Choices include: 1%, Skim, Fat Free Flavored	Fruit choices include a variety of fresh, canned, and 100% fruit juice.	

*Menu subject to change*

Please log onto [www.ezschoollpay.com](http://www.ezschoollpay.com) to monitor your child's account or call 860-647-3462

Student Lunch Price: \$2.05

Reduced Lunch Price: \$.40

Adult Lunch Price: \$3.25

Student Breakfast: \$1.00 – Reduced Breakfast: \$.30

Milk Only: \$.40



Manchester's Message  
for a healthier you.





Please return the orange UNICEF box to school any time on or before November 6<sup>th</sup>.

TRICK-OR-TREAT FOR UNICEF



Thank you for your generous support of this worthy cause.



SAVE  
THE DATE

Buckley Elementary  
**Barnes & Noble  
Bookfair**

**Tuesday, December 8th, 6:30pm-8pm**  
**270 Buckland Hills Dr, Manchester**

**Bookfair Events:**

Story time with Principal Daly and Assistant Principal Tjagvad (6:30)

Scavenger Hunt

Creativity Station

Guest author Martha Ritter, signing her book, *The Nearly Calamitous Taming of PZ*

*Can't attend our bookfair at Barnes & Noble?*

Visit **BN.COM/bookfairs** to support us online from 12/08/2015 to 12/13/2015  
by entering Bookfair ID 11739455 at checkout.

A percentage of your Barnes & Noble purchases will benefit our school/organization.



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